



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York

---

July 19, 2023

**VIA ECF**

The Honorable John P. Cronan  
United States District Judge  
United States Courthouse  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, NY 10007

Re: *Reclaim the Records et al., v. U.S. Dep't of State*, 23-cv-01650 (JPC)

Dear Judge Cronan:

This Office represents the U.S. Department of State (the “DOS”) in the above-referenced action brought under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”). We write jointly with Plaintiffs Reclaim the Records and Alec Ferreti (“Plaintiffs”) to provide the Court with a status update pursuant to the Court’s June 15, 2023 Order. *See* ECF No. 14.

The DOS is still assessing whether, and to what extent, it may be able to process Plaintiffs’ request for “[a]n extract of all information for deceased passport holders maintained in the passport database.” The DOS has agreed to provide Plaintiffs with a further update by July 28, 2023.

Because this is a FOIA case, we anticipate that this matter will either be resolved consensually, or through motions for summary judgment on any issues the parties are unable to resolve. We therefore respectfully request that the parties be required to provide the Court with a written status update on or before August 4, 2023. If the parties agree upon the scope of the requested search, we will negotiate a production schedule and advise the Court of same. If we reach an impasse as to the scope of the requested search, we will propose a briefing schedule for motions for summary judgment.

We thank the Court for its consideration of this letter.

Respectfully,

BELDOCK LEVINE &  
HOFFMAN LLP  
*Attorney for Plaintiffs*

DAMIAN WILLIAMS  
United States Attorney for the  
Southern District of New York

By: /s/ Jeff Kinkle  
Jeff Kinkle  
99 Park Avenue, PH/26<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10016  
Tel: (212) 277-5824  
Jkinkle@blhny.com

By: /s/ Rebecca L. Salk  
REBECCA L. SALK  
Assistant United States Attorney  
86 Chambers Street, Third Floor  
New York, New York 10007  
Tel.: (212) 637-2614  
Rebecca.Salk@usdoj.gov